

Minutes and Assignments of Meeting, December 13, 1961

1. INR Briefing

ie Consolidated in summary over
Mrs. Mautner provided an intelligence briefing stressing the following points: a) Soviet note to Denmark expressing indignation at the formation of the Baltic Sea Command and warning the Danes about "misuse" of Bornholm, b) formal Bulgarian protest to the Greeks and Turks protesting their participation in NATO and the location of nuclear weapons on their territories, c) Soviet aide-memoire to Austria protesting Austria's planned association with the EEC, d) VOPO delay of West German trucks on the autobahn, e) Reichsbahn switching process forcing all rail traffic onto two tracks into West Berlin, (This is bound to cause congestion and may be a pretext for harassment of West German rail passenger traffic to and from West Berlin) f) rumors of GDR plot to invade West Berlin over the Xmas holiday weekend, and g) GDR-Evangelical Church agreement on goods supply.

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2. Paris Meetings

Mr. Achilles noted the phrase, "we should be careful to avoid associating ourselves too closely with position of British government" in an Information Guidance on the Paris talks. Information officers here will probably need some guidance on the meaning of this cryptic note.

3. Bermuda Meeting

Col. Legere urged that the Bermuda meetings be used as a vehicle whereby British reluctance to cooperate with us on local issues in Berlin and on NATO military build-up be discussed. Mr. Sweeny (BNA) is deputy co-ordinator for this meeting.

4. Identification Procedures

Mr. Achilles noted that the problems posed by Berlin's telegram 1170 had been resolved by the Foreign Ministers at Paris.

5. Watson-Pekrovsky Talks of December 12

Mr. Achilles noted that these talks had few positive results though Watson protested vigorously various recent GDR harassments.

6. Rotation of Battle Groups on Autobahn

Colonel Spraggins noted that yesterday's convoys had proceeded without harassments or undue delays.

7. Slow-Down of West German Truck Processing at Autobahn Checkpoints

Mr. Mautner suggested that some thought be given to counter this harassment by sealing these vehicles in West Berlin before they proceed on the autobahn to West Germany. As East Berlin is now virtually closed off there should be no danger that West German trucks are bringing out material.